be maintained by the public agencies as per the buffer stocking policy adopted by the Government are as under:

(*Million Tonnes*)

Date	*Rice*	*Wheat*	*Total*
1st October	6.0	10.6	16.6

The stock of foodgrains with public agencies as on 1.10.1991, was of the order of 15.6 million tonnes, comprising 7.00 million tonnes of rice and 8.6 million tonnes of wheat.

(c) Although, the present stocks of wheat and rice are considered to be sufficient to meet the reasonable requirements of Public Distribution System, all possible efforts are being made, in corporation with the State Governments, to maximise procurement for the central pool.

Drought Prone Area Programme

4435. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the Drought Prone Area Programme launched in the country in terms of maximising the agricultural production in good rainfall years and minimising the crop losses when the rainfall is not adequate by adopting suitable low-cost soil and moisture conservation measures on a scientific basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the above programme is likely to be continued and if so, the Central assistance given to the States concerned financially and technically since the start of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) A final decision on the Report of the National Committee recommending transfer of the Drought Prone Areas Programme to the States has not yet been taken. The Central Assistance given to the States concerned since the start of the programme and upto March 91 amounts to Rs. 619.21 crores.

Setting up of Expert Committee to Recommend Norms for Fixation of Water Rates

4436. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has set up an expert Committee to recommend the norms for fixing water rates in a bid to rationalise irrigation water tariff;

(b) if so, by what time the Committee is likely to submit its interim report; and

(c) the composition and terms of reference of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has constituted a Committee on pricing of Irrigation water on 23.10.1991.

(b) The Committee will submit the final report within four months from the date of notification.

(c) The composition and terms of reference of the Committee are contained in the attached statement.

STATEMENT

Constitution of Committee on Pricing of Irrigation Water

1.	*Dr. A Vaidyanathan, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Madras, 79, Second Main Road, Gandhi Nagar, Adyar, Madras – 600 02*	.....	Member
2.	Shri Ramaswamy R. Iyer, Visiting Professor, Centre for Policy Research, Dhrama Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi – 1100 021.	.....	Member
3.	Shri V.B. Patel, Former Chairman, C.W.C. 11 Chandra Moulli Society, Nava Vadaj, Ahmedabad – 380 013	.....	Member
4.	Shri R.L. Pardeep, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Shram Shram Shakti Bhavan, New Delhi.	... .	Member
5.	Shri B.N. Navalawala, Adviser (I &CAD), Planning Commission, New Delhi.	.....	Member
6.	Shri M.S. Reddy, Member (WP), CWC, Sewa Bhavan, R.K. Puram, New Delhi.	.....	Member
7.	A representative of the Ministry of Agriculture (Not below the rank of Joint Secretary	.....	Member
8.	Shri Dharamvir, Director General, Central Revenues (I), I.P. Estate, New Delhi – 110 021.	.....	Member
9.	Secretary, Irrigation Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.	.....	Member
10.	Secretary, Irrigation Department, Government of Assam, Guwahati –781 001.	.....	Member
11.	Secretary, Irrigation, Government of Uttar Pradesh Lucknow.	.....	Member

12.	Secretary, Irrigation, Government of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Bombay – 400 001	.....	Member
13.	Secretary, Irrigation and Waterways Department, Government of West Bengal, Writers Building, Calcutta – 700 001.	.....	Member
14.	Dr. V.J. Patel Jivaraj Patel, Agro–forestry Centre, "Surendra Baugh", Kardej – 364 061 Distt. Bhavnagar (Gujarat) A farmers' representative)	.....	Member
15.	Shri M.L. Lath, Chief Engineer (WM), Ministry of Water Resource, Lok Nayak Bhavan, New Delhi	.....	Member Secretary

Terms of Reference of the Committee

(i) To review the existing water rate structure and the extent of subsidy in Govt. and public sector irrigation projects.

(ii) To suggest:

(a) the norms for fixing water rates;

(b) the norms for cost escalation in O&M component of economics water rates;

(c) the norms for conversion of volumetric supply of water rates of crop–wise/ area–wise water rates for different agro–climatic zones;

(d) the organisational measures including mechanism for efficient recovery of economic water rates; and

(e) operating controls for ensuring levy of appropriate irrigation water rates by the States.

(iii) To evolve a rational water rate structure for both surface and ground water to promote conjunctive use

(iv) To review the present status of maintenance of irrigation projects in different States.

(v) To review the norms of maintenance as recommended by earlier Committees and different Finance Commissions.

(vi) To suggest the norms for fixing maintenance charges including stipulating the upper ceiling per hectare of command for the expenditure on staff establishment for various irrigation systems in different States.

Committee for Sugar Projects

4437. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state: